



Headquarters 139th Regiment (Combat Arms) North Carolina Military Academy



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From War to Training

Story by Spc. Lynn Wilson

FT Bragg, NC- Specialist Terry Hong, from the 134th Brigade Combat Team currently stationed in Iraq, returned home to be apart of the Fire Support Specialist course with several other Soldiers.

Hong has seen first hand how close air support is being used in Iraq, and realizes its importance.

Apache Helicopters were being used to assist in the teaching of close air support, which consists of identifying a target and initiating the attack, during the MOS training course. The course is apart of the North Carolina Military Academy.

The Field Support Specialist course is three weeks long and consists of two phases. The first phase, which has already been completed for this class, focuses on land navigation and working with map overlays, while the second phase concentrated on live fire missions, according to Sgt. 1st Class William Soby, the forward observer for the course.

"In a close combat attack it is important to make sure the pilot knows the Soldiers position and the



Ft. Bragg, NC - Soldiers who are going through their initial MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) training are learning to call in coordinates for fire support. *Photo by Spec. Jessica L. Sheldon.*

position of the target correctly, so the pilot does not (fire upon) friendly forces," said Staff Sgt. Ralph Gabis, 1-130 Aviation. Gabis has been working with the MOS training at the North Carolina Military Academy for the past two years.

Ft. Bragg, NC- An old tank in the middle of range OP8 at Fort Bragg was used as a target, so soldiers involved in the Fire Support Specialist class could practice calling for fire support. *Photo by Spc. Lynn Wilson.*



When the course is over the Soldiers are expected to be able to assist in the preparation and dissemination of fire support plans and in initiating requests for field artillery, mortar, naval gunfire, and aerial delivered munitions.

Field Support Specialists can then go on to other courses to learn how to prepare observer target lists and to assist in formulating offensive and defensive fire support plans.

"Having the knowledge (of the importance of having fire support) and being able to share that with my squad is very important," said Hong.

He will be returning to Iraq after his MOS training at the Military Academy is complete.

Leaders informed of new focus

Story by Master Sgt. Dwight Green

FT Bragg, NC- "It all happens at the Company Level!" was the theme for the Commanders/First Sergeants Conference, March 3-4, 2007, at the 139th Regiment (Combat Arms) North Carolina Military Academy.

Soldiers came from throughout the state to convene at the Military Academy for two days of instruction that will be crucial to their success as 21st century military leaders. They were reminded that the nation is at war, and that they must make a difference.

Course subjects ranged from unit maintenance management to public affairs operations. Each subject was designed to help these new leaders transform and train the new modular force.

For the majority of the officers and Non-Commissioned Officers present at the course, this will be their first opportunity to manage the Guard's most precious assets, soldiers, their families and employers.

For several years, the State Adjutant General has emphasized recruitment and retention, as top priorities for the North Carolina National Guard. The main focus of National Guard leadership in 2007 will be to continue to recognize and involve the soldier's family and to let their employers know that they too are appreciated. Leaders at every level of

command have received training on achieving these goals.

Course participants were given information about the newly improved Family Support Program, which is expected to get the soldier's families more involved in Guard activities.

In past years the program was geared to help families after the soldier's unit was deployed

have sometimes been difficult, however getting soldiers qualified to do their respective job is still a top leadership priority. The recruiting and retention slumps are expected to decrease by placing more emphasis on achieving these goals.

In his opening comments to the course participants, Brigadier General David L Jennette Jr,

Deputy Adjutant General for the North Carolina National Guard, challenged each leader to stay focused on their soldier's needs in order to get their mission accomplished. The General talked about the company level being the most basic and important foundations in the North Carolina National Guard.

"When dealing with young soldiers, it has been proven time and

time again, that if leaders show their subordinates acceptance, understanding, recognition and appreciation, motivating them to do their duty will be a great deal simpler."

Leaders should strive to figure out what is important to them, "because a soldier does not care how much their leader knows, but how much they care," said General Jennette. When a leader has earned his subordinates respect, then the process of equipping, training and deploying them will be accomplished.



LTC Pete Versfield, State Comptroller for the North Carolina National Guard, USPFO Branch, briefs soldiers about military pay during the Commander and First Sergeant Conference, 139th Regiment (Combat Arms) Military Academy, FT Bragg, North Carolina. *Photo by Master Sgt. Dwight Green.*

for overseas duty. Now family members are encouraged to ask questions in order to stay informed of the Guard mission, both local and abroad.

Leaders are encouraged to have their soldier's employers ask questions in order to maintain their cooperation. Soldiers can expect a more secure future with a company that understand and support the Guard mission.

Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) schools continue to be extremely important. Securing funding for MOS schools

120th CAB completes BGST's

Story by Cadet Glenn Draughon

Ft. Bragg, NC-Members of the 120th CAB conducted Bradley Gunnery Skills testing (BGST) today in preparation for their annual training in April at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

The Bradley Fighting Vehicle is a tracked vehicle used by infantry and armor units to identify and destroy the enemy. Soldiers were tested on a variety of skills including assembly and disassembly of the two main weapon systems on a Bradley. The testing was done in maintenance bays at the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES).

The main goal of the BGST is qualifying on the gunnery lanes which the 120th will have to do at their annual training. Gunnery is a culmination of what is learned during BGST. Soldiers have a chance to fire live rounds and engage targets at different points on a particular range.

Staff Sgt. Jason Stewart of Bravo Company says that gunnery is a fun way to implement the training they receive. Being able to fire live rounds and actually see what you hit shows the effectiveness of BGST training.

The 120th deployed to Iraq in 2004 in support of OIF II. According to Stewart, the combat experiences forged there have helped in the training of the younger soldiers. Stewart says that the purpose of the testing is to get soldiers familiarized with the weapon systems on the Bradley.

The two main weapon systems are the 25mm chain gun and the



Ft Bragg-A soldier from the 120th reassembles a 240C machine gun during BGST at MATES. BGST is implemented to maintain Bradley crew efficiency and prepare the soldiers for gunnery. *Photo by Cadet Glenn Draughon*

240C coax machine gun. They are also implementing a cross training aspect to the skills testing which allows soldiers who would not normally use the weapon system to become familiar with it.

Soldiers have 10 minutes to disassemble the 25mm and an additional 10 minutes to reassemble it. They also have to install and reinstall the 240C. Stewart sees this training as a valuable tool in the overall development of a Bradley crewman.

There was also other training going on outside of MATES. Soldiers from Charlie Company 120th were participating in conduct of fire training. The COFT is a simulated exercise where Bradley and tank gunners and commanders hone their reaction skills. The simulator

is set up just like the inside of a Bradley or tank. A computer model displays targets and the vehicle commander gives the fire commands for the gunner to employ.

Capt. Michael Marciniak of Charlie Company said that the simulator is as close to the real thing as there is. He said that the computer gives instant feedback of a person's performance. This is also another training aid used to prepare for gunnery. Marciniak said that the COFT trainer is used throughout the year to maintain soldier readiness.

The overall mood of the day was one of optimism. The soldiers seemed genuinely interested in excelling at the tasks. They were also enjoying the training and looked forward to implementing it at gunnery and beyond.

